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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1 CHILE: HAS THE JUNTA GONE TOO FAR?

EMBASSY SANTIAGO REPORTS THAT KEY CIVILIAN SECTORS HERE-
TOFORE STAUNCHLY BEHIND THE JUNTA HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTIONS HAVE GONE TOO
FAR. SEVERAL SEE THE GOVERNMENT AS PLAYING INTO THE HANDS
OF EXTREMISTS BY OUTLAWING POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND PUTTING
TIGHTER CONTROLS ON PRINTED MATTER, WHILE SOME INDIVIDUALS

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WHO ARE MORE CLOSELY TIED TO THE GOVERNMENT HAVE COMPLAINED
THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED ABOUT RECENT DECISIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: PRESIDENT PINOCHET IS APPARENTLY AWARE
OF THE GROWING CRITICISM. HIS MUCH HERALDED, BUT ANTI-
CLIMACTIC AND DEFENSIVE, MARCH 18 SPEECH INDICATES THAT HE
FELT COMPELLED TO RESPOND AND THAT HE IS NOT AS FIRMLY IN

CHARGE AS HE MIGHT WISH. SUCH CRITICISM POSES NO PRESENT THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IT RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL POLARIZATION ALONG CIVIL/MILITARY LINES. THE JUNTA IS MOVING INTO UNCHARTED WATERS AND INCREASING ITS ISOLATION FROM SIGNIFICANT SECTORS OF SOCIETY WHICH HAVE BEEN ITS FIRM SUPPORTERS. PRESSURES ON THE GOVERNMENT TO

PULL BACK SEEM TO BE BUILDING, AND SHOULD IT PROVE TO BE UNRESPONSIVE, AS IS LIKELY, ITS SUPPORT MAY BE ERODED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) SANTIAGO 2242, 3/18 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) SANTIAGO 2251, 3/19.

2. SOVIET ARMS TO ECUADOR?

EMBASSY QUITO REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR RECENTLY MADE A "VERY ATTRACTIVE OFFER" FOR THE SALE OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ECUADOR. CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND OLMEDO TOLD OUR CHARGE THAT IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO REFUSE SUCH SOVIET OFFERS.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: WE DO NOT DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF OLMEDO'S REPORT, BUT WE BELIEVE HE IS INFORMING US IN THE HOPE THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL PERSUADE US TO SELL CERTAIN TYPES OF ARMS TO ECUADOR. (CONFIDENTIAL) QUITO 1821, 3/18.

3. NORWAY: BALANCING ACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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DURING HIS MARCH 16 MEETING WITH ALLARD LOWENSTEIN, NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND SAID THAT WHILE NORWAY WAS INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING PROCEDURES FOR PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, IT MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. TERMING NORWAY'S RECENT CANCELLATION OF A VISIT BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE MINISTER A MISTAKE, FRYDENLUND ADDED:

"WE SHOULD HAVE AS MANY CONTACTS AS POSSIBLE WITH OFFENDING NATIONS AS WELL AS MAKING OUR POINT. WE MUST AVOID LINKAGE BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES AND NOT TRY TO BULLY COUNTRIES, AS THE RESULT COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NORWAY LARGELY SYMPATHIZES WITH US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES, ITS MANEUVERING ROOM IS CIRCUMSCRIBED BOTH BY THE OVERWHELMING PRESENCE OF THE USSR AND BY THE FEELING THAT ISOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS

MALEFACTORS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE BEST WAY TO HELP VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION. (CONFIDENTIAL) OSLO 1334, 3/18.

4. ADVICE TO THE SAUDIS ON ERITREA

IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR PORTER'S REQUEST (SEE MORNING SUMMARY 3/18), EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA OFFERS THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD ADVISE THE SAUDIS CONCERNING THEIR RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA:

--THE CONCEPT OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS STILL STRONG IN AFRICA, AND OPEN SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT MAKE THE SAUDIS MANY FRIENDS.

--ETHIOPIA SUSPECTS THAT WE AND THE SAUDIS ARE BEHIND THE SUDAN AND RESPONSIBLE FOR ARAB "RED SEA SECURITY" MOVES. THUS, INCREASED SAUDI SUPPORT FOR THE
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ERITREAN REBELS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.

--SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN STATES MAY LULL THEM INTO SUPPORTING AN "ARAB" CAUSE OVER AN "AFRICAN" ONE, BUT IT COULD BACKFIRE.

--MENGISTU IS IN FULL CONTROL IN ADDIS, AND WOULD NOT HESITATE TO ACT IF THE SAUDIS PUBLICLY SUPPORT THE ERITREAN REBELS. (SECRET) ADDIS ABABA 1636, 3/18.

5. ZAMBIA BLAMES US FOR "SUPER POWER RIVALRY" IN AFRICA

OUR EMBASSY IN LUSAKA REPORTS THAT A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA:

--CHARGES THAT THE US, FRANCE AND BELGIUM ARE POURING ARMS INTO ZAIRE AND "THIS PART OF AFRICA IS ABOUT TO BE ENGULFED IN ANOTHER SUPER POWER RIVALRY;" AND

--QUOTES AN EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT THAT "THE WEST IS OUT TO HARASS THE VISITS OF PRESIDENT PODGORYN AND CASTRO" BECAUSE IT IS AGAIN AFFLICTED BY "REDS UNDER THE BED PARANOIA."

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS ARTICLE WAS GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED AND ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE OFFICIAL ZAMBIAN POSITION ON THE SHABA INVASION. ZAMBIA WISHES ABOVE ALL TO AVOID CHOOSING SIDES BETWEEN AFRICANS SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIETS AND THOSE SUPPORTED BY THE WEST, AS ITS CHOICE IN THE CASE OF ANGOLA LOST IT SO MUCH PRESTIGE. IF A

DECISION HAD TO BE MADE, ZAMBIA WOULD PROBABLY SIDE WITH ITS FRONT LINE COLLEAGUES BECAUSE THEY CONTROL ITS LIFE-LINES. (CONFIDENTIAL) LUSAKA 742, 3/20.

LATE ITEM

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MRS. GANDHI DEFEATED

EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPORTS THAT MRS. GANDHI AND HER SON SANJAY HAVE BOTH BEEN DEFEATED IN THEIR ELECTION BIDS. IN ADDITION, DEFENSE MINISTER BANSI LAL AND FIVE OTHER CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIALS HAVE GONE DOWN TO DEFEAT. OVERALL, THE CONGRESS PARTY APPEARS TO BE HOLDING ITS OWN IN THE SOUTH WHILE SUFFERING OVERWHELMING DEFEAT IN THE NORTH. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NEW DELHI 3898, 3/21, (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 3896, 3/21, (UNCLASSIFIED) NEW DELHI 3891, 3/21, AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NEW DELHI 3894, 3/21.
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To: NSA JCS MULTIPLE
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